

August 20, 2020

The ASBMB rejects President Donald Trump's accusation against scientists

The following is a statement from Benjamin Corb, public affairs director for the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology:

“President Donald Trump throughout the COVID-19 pandemic response has favored unproven quick fixes over scientifically supported treatments for the life-threatening effects of the SARS-COV-2 virus. From the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine to bleach and ultraviolet lights to the poisonous plant extract oleandrin — rather than heeding the cautious advice of medical doctors and scientists, the president has relied on his gut instincts and anecdotal results to offer at best unproven and at worst potentially deadly medical advice from the White House podium.

Wednesday's unsupported assertion by the president that government scientists are delaying COVID-19 treatments until after the November election is a continuation of this administration's dangerous attempts to erode the public's trust in the scientific community.

Science, much like the virus that has taken the lives of more than 170,000 Americans, does not care about politics, election cycles or personal views. Science consists of what can be proven and supported by data, and, as much as we desire a rapid return to normalcy, there is no fast-tracking sound science.

Scientists across the country are working day and night to understand the underlying mechanisms of the SARS-COV-2 virus, how it works in the body and what treatments may be effective to help patients recover quickly and safely from infection. Some treatments showed early promise but upon further research proved ineffective. Some treatments are still being investigated to ensure they are safe for wide use. No evidence has been presented that anyone in the scientific community is playing politics with this process.

President Trump should spend more time listening to what the scientific community advises and needs during this crisis. He needs to spend less time attacking facts that don't fit his narrative and instituting policies that create obstacles for the very people who are working to save American lives.”